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REMARKS

Claims 67-114 are pending in the application. In the Office Action at hand, those claims are rejected. The rejections are traversed.

In particular, Claims 67, 69, 70, 72-76, 79-82, 84-87, 89, 90, 92-96, 99-102 and 104-114 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Uehara (5,659,376) in view of Yamada (5,508,834) and Lee (6,862,053). In addition, Claims 68, 71, 88 and 91 are rejected under § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Uehara, Yamada and Lee in view of Mizuno (US2002/0098344) and Hopper (4,388,375). Furthermore, Claims 77 and 97 are rejected under § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Uehara, Yamada and Lee, and further in view of Sawa (JP06273760). Finally, Claims 78, 83, 98 and 103 are rejected under § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Uehara, Yamada, Lee and Sawa in view of Mori (6,288,700). In response to the § 103(a) rejections, the Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 67-114, as amended, are not obvious in view of Uehara, Yamada, Lee, Mizuno, Hopper, Sawa and Mori. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The present invention of Claim 67, as amended, recites a display system including a housing having an aperture, and a liquid crystal display panel having an image plane, and opposed transparent substrates defining first and second sides of the display panel. At least one substrate is directly mounted to and within the housing so as to position the display panel in optical alignment with the aperture. A first polarizer is disposed relative to the first side of the display panel. The first polarizer is mounted to be optically aligned with the aperture and mechanically spaced by the housing from the image plane by a distance such that visibility of first polarizer defects to a viewer is minimized. The first polarizer is held within a first receptacle in the housing. The first receptacle mechanically secures the first polarizer.

Claims 67, 85-87 and 105-106 have been amended to recite "the first polarizer being held within a first receptacle in the housing, the first receptacle mechanically securing the first polarizer." In addition, Claims 84 and 104 have been amended to recite "the first and second polarizers being held within respective first and second receptacles in the housing, the first and second receptacles mechanically securing the first and second polarizers". Furthermore, Claims 73, 74, 93 and 94 have been amended to be consistent with the amendments to their respective base claims. Support for these amendments is found at least in FIGs. 2-6 as well as on page 6, lines 3-23 of the Specification as originally filed. No new matter is introduced.

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The following arguments include some discussions that were previously presented, and also introduce new arguments for further addressing the Examiner's rejections. Referring to the embodiment of the present invention depicted in FIG. 2, the display panel 306 can be mounted and enclosed within the housing 304/308 in a manner where one or both of the transparent substrates of the display panel 306 can be directly mounted to and within the housing 304/308, and in optical alignment with the aperture and the first polarizer 302. In other embodiments, the housing can be formed of other suitable components, and can have other suitable configurations.

In addition, the first polarizer can be mounted in optical alignment with the aperture in the housing and mechanically spaced from the image plane with the housing by a distance such that visibility of the first polarizer defects to a viewer is minimized. The first polarizer can be held within a first receptacle or recess in the housing which mechanically secures the first polarizer. For example, referring to FIGs. 2-6, in one example of an embodiment, the first polarizer 302 can be held within a first receptacle 312 in a housing element 304 of the housing. The receptacle 312 can include a recess within the first housing element 304, which surrounds an opening or aperture passing through the first housing element 304. This can form a recessed outer peripheral shoulder and rim (FIG. 4) that is sized and configured for mechanically gripping, capturing or securing the first polarizer 302. Such mechanical securement of the first polarizer can allow the housing to hold the first polarizer in place without adhesives if desired, which can eliminate the introduction of a substance that can produce defects if incorrectly applied. A second polarizer 310 can be also mechanically gripped, captured or secured by a second receptacle 314 or recess. The mechanical securement by the receptacles allow the display system to be easily and quickly assembled. In other embodiments, receptacles or recesses of other suitable configurations can be employed for mechanical securement.

In contrast, Uehara discloses in FIG. 2 an LCD apparatus having a liquid crystal panel 101 which is mounted to an intermediate fixing plate 112 by elastic resin 113. The intermediate fixing plate 112 is then mounted to a frame member 114 of the housing by elastic resin 115 for obtaining the proper positioning, alignment and securement of the liquid crystal panel 101 within the housing. A first polarizer 118 is applied or secured to the lower side of a protective plate 111, which sits in a recess of plate 125, and a second polarizer 119 is applied onto the upper surface of the diffusion plate 106 of the backlight 100B. As can be seen in FIG. 2, the outer periphery of the protective plate 111/polarizer 118 unit is spaced from the side walls of the recess so that there is no mechanical securement of the protective plate 111/polarizer 118 unit by the

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side walls of the recess. Since the protective plate 111 and the polarizer 118 are applied as a single unit, the protective plate 111 does not mechanically secure the polarizer 118 to the plate 125. Therefore, Uehara does not hold polarizer 118 within a receptacle that mechanically secures the polarizer, as now claimed in the present invention. In addition, it can be seen that polarizer 119 is not mechanically secured by a receptacle.

Yamada discloses in FIG. 7 a display having a liquid crystal cell 1 with transparent cover members 6 and 7 that are spaced from the liquid crystal cell 1. Polarizers 8 and 9 are mounted to the continuous exterior surfaces of transparent cover members 6 and 7 to be out of the depth of focus. The structure of the embodiment is similar to that shown in FIG. 5 where polarizers 8 and 9 are shown adhered to the exterior surfaces of cover members 6 and 7. As can be seen, the polarizers 8 and 9 are not held within receptacles that mechanically secure the polarizers.

Lee discloses in FIG. 4 a display unit 710 positioned within a chassis. Lee does not have a polarizer held within a receptacle that mechanically secures the polarizer.

Accordingly, Claims 67, 69, 70, 72-76, 79-82, 84-87, 89, 90, 92-96, 99-102 and 104-114, as amended, are not obvious in view of Uehara, Yamada and Lee, since none of the references, alone or in combination, teach or suggest "the first polarizer being held within a first receptacle in the housing, the first receptacle mechanically securing the first polarizer", as recited in base Claim 67, as amended and similarly in independent or base Claims 85-87 and 105-106, as amended, or "the first and second polarizers being held within respective first and second receptacles in the housing, the first and second receptacles mechanically securing the first and second polarizers", as recited in Claims 84 and 104, as amended, or "the first polarizer is mechanically spaced by the housing from the image plane and mechanically secured to the housing in a manner where adhesion is not required" as further recited in dependent Claims 107-110, and similarly in dependent method Claims 111-114. Therefore, Claims 67, 69, 70, 72-76, 79-82, 84-87, 89, 90, 92-96, 99-102 and 104-114, as amended, are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Mizuno discloses an optical adhesive film formed from polyester including foreign particles having a maximum size of about 20 μm or more. In addition, Hopper discloses that a polarizer can be formed of polyester.

Claims 68, 71, 88 and 91 are not obvious in view of Uehara, Yamada, Lee, Mizuno and Hopper since none of these references, either alone or in combination, teach or suggest "the first polarizer being held within a first receptacle in the housing, the first receptacle mechanically

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securing the first polarizer", as recited in base Claim 67, as amended and similarly in base Claim 87, as amended. Therefore, Claims 68, 71, 88 and 91 are in condition for allowance.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Sawa discloses a backlight having a light source 14, and light diffusing parts 11, 34 and 35, which are positioned in front of the light source 14.

Claims 77 and 97 are not obvious in view of Uehara, Yamada, Lee and Sawa since none of these references, either alone or in combination, teach or suggest "the first polarizer being held within a first receptacle in the housing, the first receptacle mechanically securing the first polarizer", as recited in base Claim 67, as amended, and similarly in base Claim 87, as amended. Therefore, Claims 77 and 97 are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Mori discloses a light emitting flat panel device employed as a backlight which has laterally positioned LEDs 4R, 4G and 4B, for directing multicolor light into a series of lateral guide routes 2 in a board 1 for emission from a series of light emitting holes 7 in the light guide routes 2.

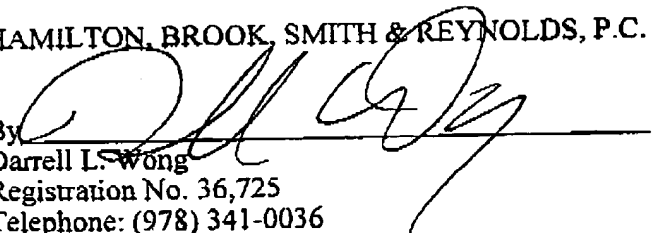
Claims 78, 83, 98 and 103 are not obvious in view of Uehara, Yamada, Lee, Sawa and Mori since none of these references, either alone or in combination, teach or suggest "the first polarizer being held within a first receptacle in the housing, the first receptacle mechanically securing the first polarizer", as recited in base Claim 67, as amended, and similarly in base Claim 87, as amended. Therefore, Claims 78, 83, 98 and 103 are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that all claims are in condition for allowance, and it is respectfully requested that the application be passed to issue. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: 11/28/2006